

What is claimed is:

1. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to the 3'-untranslated region of a nucleic acid molecule
5 encoding BCL2-associated X protein (SEQ ID NO:17), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule and inhibits the expression of said BCL2-associated X protein.

10 2. The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified
15 internucleoside linkage.

4. The compound of claim 3 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

20 5. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.
25

7. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

8. The compound of claim 7 wherein the modified
30 nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

9. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

35

10. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding BCL2-associated X protein.

5

11. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

12. The composition of claim 11 further comprising a
10 colloidal dispersion system.

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15

14. A method of inhibiting the expression of BCL2-associated X protein in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of BCL2-associated X protein is inhibited.

20